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EXAMINER	
GODBOLD, DOUGLAS	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,573	COMERFORD, LIAM D.	
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	DOUGLAS C. GODBOLD	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _17 September 2008_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-17 and 19-36_ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-17 and 19-36_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to correspondence filed September 17, 2008 in reference to application 10/674,573. Claims 1-17, and 19-36 are pending in the application and have been examined. Please note the examiner of record had changed in this case.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed September 17, 2008 has been accepted and considered in this office action. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 14, and 16 have been amended, and claim 18 has been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed September 17, 2008, with respect to claims 1-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 of claims 1-15 has been withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16 and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

> art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

7. Claim 1 requires limitations that seem to be directed toward subject matter described in the specification page 8 line 7 to page 9 line 14. However, the claim requires that “data parts from the at least one explicit command based on the acoustic word boundaries and using the at least one difference recognition vocabulary.” The specification seems to define the “explicit command” as being only the first part of the utterance, “ Add Jack Smith to my phone book;" page 8 line 13-20. On page 9 however, the implicit command is used to select a vocabulary used to decode the second part of the utterance, which seems to be defined as part of the "implicit command," page 9 lines 4-14. Therefore there is no support in the specification for using the vocabulary selected on the basis of the implicit command for use of decoding data parts contained in the explicit command. Therefore claim 1 is rejected as containing new matter. Claims 2-15 are rejected as well as they are dependent on claim 1 and do not bring the claim in line with what is described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 16 and 31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (US Patent 6,434,529) in view of Goldberg et al. (US Patent 6,400,652).

10. As per claim 16, 17, 19, 24- 29, and 31, Walker teaches a method and program storage device readable by machine (Col. 19, lines 25-37), for recognizing at least one command and at least one segment of acoustic voice data in a same utterance comprising the steps of:

decoding at least one word in voice data representing the acoustic signal that comprises a human utterance and determining the acoustic word boundaries within the voice data (Col. 5, lines 49-60 and the example provided in Col. 6, lines 34-48, wherein from Col. 5, lines 56-60 it is stated that the recognition result contains the tokens or words the user said);

extracting at least one command from the utterance (Col. 6, lines 36-48, Walker extracts the command of "1 want a (hamburgerlburger) with <toppings>" or rule <order>, which is determined by previously generating the recognition result identifying the words the user said); and

associating segments in the voice data based on the acoustic word boundaries with labels (Col. 6, lines 36-48, Walker clearly presents that the rules or object instances

<toppings>,<condiment> , and <veggy> relate to the acoustic data segments identified from the user utterance. Other examples are provided in Col. 4, lines 34-40, wherein the commands are <play> ,<stop> , and <goto>, and the label <lineno> represents the acoustic data segment from the utterance.

Walker does not specifically teach executing the at least one command utilizing undecoded information in the acoustic voice data.

In the same field of speech recognition, Goldberg teaches executing the at least one command utilizing undecoded information in the acoustic voice data (Figure 3B, audio (undecoded) is recorded based on the recognition of trigger event (command) and stops when terminating event is detected; column 6, line 37-56).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the recording of Goldberg in the system of Walker in order to add the ability to record desired information that the user may wish to play back later, such as phone numbers, or contact information; column 1 lines 53-58.

11. As per claim 17, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of extracting includes employing an application, which identifies commands in the utterance in accordance with the labels (Col. 4, lines 29-31 and Col. 4, lines 34-45). The application program may be referenced directly from scripting language within the tags (labels) defined by the rule grammar (Col. 4, lines 29-31). A portion of the rule grammar for the example of the media player is shown on Col. 4, lines 34-40, where commands such as "play," "go," and "start" are labeled <play>. Also the label is part of the rule

grammar for <command> A tags parser program is invoked to interpret the tags in a recognition result matching one of the rules, such as Processing of recognition results in the application programs may be simplified to an invocation of the tags parser (Col. 4, lines 41-45).

12. As per claim 19, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of extracting includes the step of storing at least one non-command voice data segment.

In the same field of speech recognition, Goldberg teaches the step of extracting includes the step of storing at least one non-command voice data segment (Figure 3B, audio (undecoded) is recorded based on the recognition of trigger event (command) and stops when terminating event is detected; column 6, line 37-56).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the recording of Goldberg in the system of Walker in order to add the ability to record desired information that the user may wish to play back later, such as phone numbers, or contact information; column 1 lines 53-58.

13. As per claim 24, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, further comprising the step of buffering the utterance to be processed and maintaining the utterance in memory during processing of the utterance (Fig. 8 and Col. 14, lines 57-58 and 62-64). "SUSPENDED" state 136 of the Recognizer (Fig. 8), wherein the Recognizer remains in the SUSPENDED state 136 until processing of the result

finalization event is completed (Col. 14, lines 57-58). In the SUSPENDED state 136 the Recognizer buffers incoming audio. This buffering allows a user to continue speaking without speech data being lost (Col. 14, lines 62-64).

14. As per claim 25, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of associating segments includes employing grammars to associate a unique label with each command segment in the utterance (Col. 6, lines 36- 44. The association of the label to the command segment "I want a (hamburger|burger) with "from the user utterance "I want a (hamburgerlburger) with onions and mustard." The labels <veggy>and <condiment> are also associated with the words onion and mustard, respectively.).

15. As per claim 26, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 25, wherein the label includes a numerical value (Col. 6, lines 36-44, give an example of a user's utterance "1 want a burger with onions and mustard," wherein the label "<order> " is associated with the acoustic data segment "1 want a (hamburgerlburger) with .");

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include a numerical value to the label. For example, if there was a rule for another "order" such as "I want a <flavor> ice cream" the label could have included a number "<order2>").

16. As per claim 27, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 25, wherein the grammars include a form for extracting information for an order or verbal contract

(Walker et al. teach a system (Fig. 1) that includes result listener 18, parse tree 20, and a tags parser 24. The result listener receives the recognition result and uses the grammar from grammars 12, which includes the rule that was matched to turn the result into a parse tree 20 (Col. 5, lines 61-63), then the tags parser 24 evaluates the parse tree 20 and creates an object instance, called a rule object, for each rule it encounters in the parse tree 20. The name of a rule object for any given rule is, for purposes of example, of the form $name. That is, the name of the rule object is formed by prepending a '$' to the name of the rule (Col. 6, lines 14-19). In a specific example, Col. 6, lines 36-44 describe an example of a form (or rule) for a food order).

17. As per claim 28, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 25, wherein the grammars include a form for reminding a user to perform a task (Walker et al. teach a system (Fig. 1) that includes result listener 18, parse tree 20, and a tags parser 24. The result listener receives the recognition result and uses the grammar from grammars 12, which includes the rule that was matched to turn the result into a parse tree 20 (Col. 5, lines 61-63), then the tags parser 24 evaluates the parse tree 20 and creates an object instance, called a rule object, for each rule it encounters in the parse tree 20. The name of a rule object for any given rule is, for purposes of example, of the form $name. That is, the name of the rule object is formed by prepending a '$' to the name of the rule (Col. 6, lines 14-19). In a specific example, Col. 6, lines 36-44, describe an example of a form (or rule) for a food order. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that this form or rule could also be applied to remind a user to perform a task).

18. As per claim 29, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 25, wherein the grammars include a form for extracting maximum meaningful length segments under interruption or silence conditions (Walker et al. teach a system (Fig. 1) that includes result listener 18, parse tree 20, and a tags parser 24. The result listener receives the recognition result and uses the grammar from grammars 12, which includes the rule that was matched to turn the result into a parse tree 20 (Col. 5, lines 61-63), then the tags parser 24 evaluates the parse tree 20 and creates an object instance, called a rule object, for each rule it encounters in the parse tree 20. The name of a rule object for any given rule is, for purposes of example, of the form $name. That is, the name of the rule object is formed by prepending a '$' to the name of the rule (Col. 6, lines 14-19). In a specific example, Col. 6, lines 36-44, describe an example of a form (or rule) for a food order. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that this form or rule could also be applied to extract maximum meaningful length segments under interruption or silence conditions).

19. Claims 20, 23, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (US Patent 6,434,529) in view of of Goldberg as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view Stammler et al. (US Patent 6,839,670), hereinafter Stammler.

20. As per claim 20, Walker and Goldberg teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of extracting includes calling a vocabulary for recognizing numbers and recognizing the numbers in the utterance.

However, Stammler does teach wherein the step of extracting includes calling a vocabulary for recognizing numbers and recognizing the numbers in the utterance (Col. 4, lines 59-63).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of calling a vocabulary for recognition of numbers and recognizing the numbers in the utterance as taught by Stammler for Walker's method because commands requiring storing telephone numbers or changing channels require the recognizer to be able to recognize the numbers.

21. As per claim 23, Walker and Goldberg teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of associating includes the step of changing a recognizer vocabulary and submitting at least one non-command voice data segment for recognition.

However, Stammler does teach wherein the step of associating includes the step of changing a recognizer vocabulary and submitting at least one non-command voice data segment for recognition (Col. 5, lines 33-41). The speaker dependent recognizer is connected without interface to a speaker independent recognizer. In a specific example, "call uncle Willi," the word "call" is part of the speaker independent vocabulary and

"uncle Willi" is part of the speaker dependent vocabulary (Col. 5, lines 33-41), wherein "uncle Willi" is the non-command voice data segment.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of changing a recognizer vocabulary and submitting at least one non-command voice data segment for recognition as taught by Stammler for Walker's method, because Stammler provides a speech recognition unit consisting an independent compound- word recognizer and a speaker dependent additional speech recognizer (Col. 2, lines 47-49), wherein the independent recognizer recognizes general control command, numbers, names, letters, etc, and the speaker dependent recognizer recognizes user-specific/speaker-specific names or functions (non-command), which the user/speaker defines and trains (Col. 5, lines 11- 13).

22. As per claim 30, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of determining acoustic word boundaries includes finding segment boundaries by iteratively comparing the same utterance to a plurality of vocabularies.

However, Stammler does teach wherein the step of determining acoustic word boundaries includes finding segment boundaries by iteratively comparing the same utterance to a plurality of vocabularies (Col. 5, lines 38-41, Col. 2, lines 47-49, Col. 4, lines 60-63, Col. 5, lines 11-13, and Col. 2, lines 61-65, wherein the step of determining acoustic word boundaries includes finding segment boundaries in the speaker independent and speaker dependent vocabularies. The speaker independent

recognizer recognizes general control commands, numbers, names, letters, etc., without requiring that the speaker or user train one or several of the words ahead of time (Col. 4, lines 60-63) and the speaker dependent recognizer recognizes user-specific/speaker-specific names or functions, which the user/speaker defines and trains (C01.5, lines 11-13). The system permits a speech command input or speech dialog control that is for the most part adapted to the natural way of speaking, and an extensive vocabulary of admissible commands that is made available to the speaker for this (Col. 2, lines 61-65). In a specific example (Col. 5, lines 38-41), "call uncle Willi," the speaker independent recognizer recognizes "call" and the speaker dependent recognizer, "uncle Willi.").

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of finding segment boundaries by iteratively comparing the same utterance to a plurality of vocabularies as taught by Stammler for Walker's method because Stammler provides a system that permits a speech command input or speech dialog control that is for the most part adapted to the natural way of speaking, and an extensive vocabulary of admissible commands that is made available to the speaker for this (Col. 2, lines 60-65).

23. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (US Patent 6,434,529) in view of Goldberg as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kanevsky et al. (US Patent 6,434,520), hereinafter Kanevsky.

24. As per claim 21, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of extracting includes extracting acoustic data based on acoustic word boundaries and saving the acoustic data for acoustically rendering the acoustic data.

However, Kanevsky does teach wherein the step of extracting includes extracting acoustic data based on acoustic word boundaries and saving the acoustic data for acoustically rendering the acoustic data (Fig. 1 and Col. 7, lines 22-30 and Col. 2, lines 1-4). An audio indexing system and method that includes a speech recognition/transcription module 109 (from Fig. 1), which stores the segmented audio data stream S1-SN 104 with the corresponding speaker identity tags IDI-ID2 106, the environment/channel tags E1-EN 108, and the corresponding transcription T1 -TN 110. Each segment may also be stored with its corresponding acoustic waveform, a subset of a few seconds of acoustic features, and/or a voiceprint, depending on the application and available memory (Col. 7, lines 22-30). Also the user may retrieve stored audio segments from the database by formulating queries based on one or more parameters corresponding to such indexed information (Col. 2, lines 1-4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of extracting acoustic data based on acoustic word boundaries and saving the acoustic data for acoustically rendering as taught by Kanevsky for Walker's method, because Kanevsky provides an audio processing system and method for indexing and storing audio data, and an information retrieval system which provides immediate access to audio data stored in the archive

through a description of the content of an audio recording, the identity of speakers in the audio recording, and/or a specification of circumstances surrounding the acquisition of the recordings (Col. 1, lines 32-38).

25. As per claim 22, Walker teaches the method as recited in claim 16, but does not specifically mention wherein the step of extracting includes extracting acoustic data based on acoustic word boundaries and decoding the acoustic data for storage (Fig. 1, Col. 6, lines 39-42, and Col. 7, lines 22-30). An audio indexing system and method that includes a speech recognition/transcription module 109 (from Fig. 1), which decodes the spoken utterances for each segment S1-SN 104 and generates a corresponding transcription T1-TN 110 (Col. 6, lines 39-42). The system also stores the segmented audio data stream S1-SN 104 with the corresponding speaker identity tags ID--ID2 106 the environment/channel tags E1-EN 108, and the corresponding transcription T1-TN 110. Each segment may also be stored with its corresponding acoustic waveform, a subset of a few seconds of acoustic features, and/or a voiceprint, depending on the application and available memory (Col. 7, lines 22-30).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of extracting acoustic data based on acoustic word boundaries and decoding the acoustic data for storage as taught by Kanevsky for Walker's method, because Kanevsky provides an audio processing system and method for indexing and storing audio data, and an information retrieval system which provides immediate access to audio data stored in the archive through a

description of the content of an audio recording, the identity of speakers in the audio recording, and/or a specification of circumstances surrounding the acquisition of the recordings (Col. 1, lines 32-38).

26. Claims 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (US Patent 6,434,529), in view of Romero (US 2002/0111803), and further in view of Murphy (US Patent 5,544,654).

27. As per claim 32, Walker teaches a system for recognizing commands and voice data in a same utterance comprising:

an acoustic input, which receives utterances (Fig. 1, audio input 14); and

a data buffer configured to store audio data representing the utterances (Col. 14, lines 62-67, "In the SUSPENDED state 136 (from Fig. 8) the Recognizer buffers incoming audio. This buffering allows a user to continue speaking without speech data being lost. Once the Recognizer returns to the LISTENING state the buffered audio is processed to give the user the perception of real-time processing."); and

at least one program that executes label-identified commands (Col. 13, lines 8-24).

However, Walker does not specifically mention

a speech recognition engine configured to match portions of the utterances to acoustic models and language models to recognize words and word boundaries in the utterance and labels commands in the utterance.

Conversely, Romero does teach

a speech recognition engine configured to match portions of the utterances to acoustic models and language models to recognize words and word boundaries in the utterance and labels commands in the utterance (Fig. 1, Paragraphs [0028] and [0020,0021,0022]. Speech recognizer 100 comprising an acoustic model 104 and a language model 116 (From Fig. 1). The recognizer also has a "fast acoustic match" 108, which makes use of the acoustic models (from Fig. 1), for comparing a string of incoming labels to the items stored in the conceptual vocabulary (Paragraph [0028]). Also Romero's paragraphs [0020], [0021], and [0022] show examples of "tags" (or labeling) of an utterance, such as in paragraph [0020], for the utterance "Please, give-me the phone number of Pedro Romero," the recognizer analyzes the fragment "Give me the phone number of' as a semantic identifier (command) and tagged "QUERY" or "QUERY-EN" and "Pedro Romero" as data and tagged "Pedro_fn Romero_ln."

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the feature of a speech recognizer as taught by Romero for Walker's system, because Romero provides a speech recognizer that can accept Natural Language utterances as input and directly generate the information required to process a user request (Paragraph [0007])).

However, neither Walker nor Romero specifically mention processing remaining portions of the utterance including processing audio data parts separately from the commands using a different vocabulary, the vocabulary being selected in accordance with at least one command in the utterance.

In the same field of speech recognition, Murphy teaches processing remaining portions of the utterance including processing audio data parts separately from the commands using a different vocabulary, the vocabulary being selected in accordance with at least one command in the utterance (figure 10, and column 9 lines 16 – column 10 line 5, the active vocabulary is determined for each state, and each state is determined based on a command.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to limit the active vocabulary to words that are relevant to a particular command state as taught by Murphy in the system of Walker and Romero, in order to increase accuracy while decreasing the total cost of recognition to the system.

28. As per claim 33, Walker, as modified above, teaches the system as recited in claim 32, wherein the at least one program includes a function which searches the utterance for labels output from the speech recognition engine to execute a command associated with the label (Walker's Col. 4, lines 41-49, " Processing of recognition results in the application program may be simplified to an invocation of the tags parser (tags parser program 24) such as "public void interpretResult(RecognitionResult recognitionResult { TagsParser.parseResult(recognition Result);}").

29. As per claim 34, Walker, as modified above, teaches the system as recited in claim 32, wherein, in accordance with each label, an audio segment is identified and processed (Walker's Col. 4, lines 43-49 describe an example of the application program

processing a recognition result, wherein the recognition result could be Romero's example from Paragraph [0020]) of the tag "QUERY" representing the semantic identifier "Give me the phone number of" and the tag "Pedro_fn Romero_ln" representing the data of the utterance "Please, give me the phone number of Pedro Romero.").

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used examples of Natural Language utterances as taught by Romero for Walker's system, because Romero provides a speech recognizer that can accept Natural Language utterances as input and directly generate the information required to process a user request (Paragraph [0007])).

30. As per claim 35, Walker, as modified above, teaches the system as recited in claim 32, wherein the speech recognition engine utilizes grammars with labels, which the system uses for assigning labels to decoded commands (Walker's Col. 4, lines 34-40, show an example of the rule grammar applied to a media-player application, wherein, for example, the system assigns the label to the decoded commands (play|go|start)).

31. As per claim 36, Walker, as modified above, teaches the system as recited in claim 35, wherein the grammars are represented in Bachus-Naur Form (BNF) (Walker's Fig. 4).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOUGLAS C. GODBOLD whose telephone number is (571)270-1451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00am-4:30pm Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

11/18/2008

/Talivaldis Ivars Smits/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626

DCG